Appendix: Clean Copy of Amended Claims

1. An electronic manual search system including an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the system comprising:

a reference number table which stores, for each part of the electronic manual, a reference number expressing how many times the part is referred to by a user;

a search process unit which searches contents of the parts based on a search condition, wherein the search process unit searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number; and

a search result display unit which displays parts which resulted from the search process unit, in order based on the reference number.

6. The electronic manual search system of claim 1, wherein the order of searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

10. A method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, for each part, a reference number expressing how many times the part is referred to by a user;

searching contents of the parts based on a search condition, wherein the searching step searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number; and

displaying parts which result from the searching step, in order based on the reference number.

13. The method of claim 10, wherein the order of searching the parts is a descending order of the reference number of the parts.

14. A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying an electronic manual comprising:

a plurality of parts; and

a reference number of each part, the reference number representing how many times the corresponding topic is referred to as searched results, wherein contents of each part are searchable in order based on the reference number.

15. (Amended) The recording medium of claim14, wherein the reference number is stored for each attribute of a user who refers to the part as searched results.

16. The recording medium of claim 17,

further comprising: displaying parts which are obtained by the searching step as search results, in order based on the reference number.

17. A recording medium readable by a computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method of searching an electronic manual which is composed of a plurality of parts, the method comprising the steps of:

storing, for each part, a reference number expressing how many times the part is referred to by a user; and

searching contents of the parts for topics satisfying a search condition in order based on the reference number.

18. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and representing a sequence of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to perform the actions of:

storing, for each part of an electronic manual, a reference number expressing how many times the part is referred to by a user;

searching contents of the parts based on a search condition, wherein contents of each part are searched in order based on the reference number; and

displaying parts which are obtained by the searching step as search results, in order based on the reference number.

19. A program product comprising, computer readable instructions and a recording medium bearing the computer readable instructions; the instructions

12

being adaptable to enable a computer to operate according to the steps of:

storing, for each part of an electronic manual, a reference number expressing how many times the part is referred to by a user;

searching contents of the parts based on a search condition, wherein the searching searches contents of each part in order based on the reference number; and

displaying parts which result from the searching step, in order based on the reference number.